

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-01

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P 191251Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6990

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD AFSP UR

SUBJ: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW EMBASSY COMPLEX

REF:A) MOSCOW 2806 B. MOSCOW 11170; C) MOSCOW 12759

D) STATE 182548 (1973)

Q. SUMMARY; EMBASSY CONCLUDES FROM NOTE RECEIVED FROM UPDK ON MARCH 16 AND FROM DISCUSSION WITH UPDK REPS ON MARCH 18 THAT ANY FURTHER DECISION ON ARRIVAL DATE OF FBO TEAM OF ARCHITECTS IN MOSCOW SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL EMBASSY RECEIVES RESULTS OF SOVIET STUDY OF PLANS TRANSMITTED TO THEM ON MARCH 7 (REF (A)). THESE RESULTS, EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASSURED, WILL BE PASSED TO EMBASSY NO LATER THAN APRIL 5. REASON EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DELAY IS THAT SOVIETS NOW UNCERTAIN WHETHER THEY WILL BE ABLE TO APPROVE BASIC CONCEPT OF NEW COMPLEX, AS TRANSMITTED TO THEM ON MARCH 7 IN FORM OF PLANS CALLED FOR IN CONDITIONS OF CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT UNDER SECTION III, PARA 3, A.A. AND A.B., WITHOUT FURTHER DETAILS CALLED FOR IN POINTS A.C., A.D., AND A.E. OF SAME PARAGRAPH AND SECTION. THOUGH AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED EARLIER ON ACCEPTABILITY OF POINTS A.A. AND A.B. AS SUFFICIENT FOR PRELIMINARY STUDY, SOVIETS MAY NOW BE RENEGING. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY ON MARCH 16 RECEIVED FOLLOWING NOTE FROM UPDK:

QUOTE: THE ADMINISTRATION FOR SERVICE TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, REFERRING TO NOTE WJS-1, DATED MARCH 6 OF THIS YEAR, OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WISHES TO
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INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT A COPY OF THE NOTE, TRANSLATED INTO

RUSSIAN, AND THE ATTACHED DRAFTS OF A THREE-DIMENSIONAL PLANNING DETERMINATION SHOWING CONSTRUCTION OF THE WHOLE SITE OF THE PROPOSED NEW AMERICAN EMBASSY COMPLEX AND A GENERAL PLAN OF THE SITE, HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE MAIN ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF MOSCOW FOR EXAMINATION. THE EMBASSY WILL BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THIS EXAMINATION BY APRIL 5 OF THIS YEAR. AT THE SAME TIME THE ADMINISTRATION WISHES TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT THE MAIN ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF MOSCOW EXPECTS THE EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT TO IT THE PLANNING DOCUMENTATION REFERRED TO IN POINTS A.C., A.D., AND A.E. OF SECTION III, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE "AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE USSR AND THE USA ON THE CONDITIONS OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING COMPLEXES OF THE EMBASSY OF THE USSR IN WASHINGTON AND THE EMBASSY OF THE USA IN MOSCOW" OF DECEMBER 4, 1972. END QUOTE.

3. EMBASSY ADMIN OFFICER MET FOR TWO HOURS ON MORNING OF MARCH 18 TO DISCUSS NOTE WITH UPDK REPS BALOV AND PROTASOV. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER UPDK WOULD BE READY TO RECEIVE ARCHITECT TEAM AFTER "RESULTS" REFERRED TO IN NOTE RECEIVED FROM ARCHITECTURAL ADMINISTRATION. BELOV THROUGHOUT LONG CONVERSATION REFUSED DIRECT REPLY TO QUESTION, BUT STATED THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY WHETHER THE GENERAL PLAN OF THE SITE WOULD BE EITHER APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED SOLELY ON BASIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED ON MARCH 7. EMBOFF REFERRED TO AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN EMBASSY AND UPDK IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1973 (REFS B&C) UNDER WHICH IN FIRST STAGE ONLY POINTS A.A. AND A.B. WOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL, WITH FOLLOWING POINTS TO BE TRANSMITTED AFTER APPROVAL OBTAINED. BALOV DENIED THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE FROM REF (C) THAT UPDK WRITTEN REPLY TO SUGGESTED CHANGE IN PROCEDURE TO ALLOW TWO-STAGE APPROACH TO APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY PLANS WAS AMBIGUOUS, AND THAT UPON RECEIPT OF NOTE IN OCTOBER 1973 ADMIN OFFICER CALLED BALOV FOR CLARIFICATION. DURING PHONE CONVERSATION BALOV EXPRESSED GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF SUGGESTED CHANGE IN PROCEDURE, AS NOTED PARA 2, REF (C). COMMENT: EMBOFF IN MARCH 18 CONVERSATION PRESSED BALOV ON POINT, BUT DID NOT BELABOR IT AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT BALOV NO LONGER WILLING TO STAND BY HIS EARLIER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT. EMBASSY CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON REASON FOR CHANGED POSITION: PERHAPS BALOV HAD NOT CLEARED HIS AGREEMENT TO CHANGED PROCEDURE WITH HIGHER AUTHORITY AND WAS FORCED TO RECALL; OR, PERHAPS MORE LIKELY, DESIGN FOR NEW COMPLEX IS SO UNORTHODOX (BY SOVIET STANDARDS) THAT SOVIETS NOW FEEL THEY MAY NEED MORE INFORMATION BEFORE THEY CAN COMMIT THEMSELVES TO APPROVAL. IN SAME NOTE (REF (C)) UPDK MADE PROMISE TO HAVE BUILDING SITE CLEARED BY END OF YEAR. SINCE THIS CLEAR

COMMITMENT HAS NOT BEEN KEPT, SOVIETS MAY BE ENGAGED IN FOOT DRAGGING OPERATION FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY. END COMMENT.)

5. IN CONVERSATION MORNING OF MARCH 18, BALOV NONETHELESS DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT ARCHITECTURAL ADMINISTRATION WOULD EXPRESS PRELIMINARY OPINION OF GENERAL SITE PLAN WHICH WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET FBO DESIRES A SPER REF (D) ON BASIS OF PLANS ALREADY SUBMITTED. MORE LIKELY POSSIBILITY, HE BELIEVES, IS THAT ARCHITECTURAL ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT COMMIT ITSELF EITHER WAY, BUT RATHER ASK FOR AT LEAST SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. BALOV TOOK PAINS TO MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IN ALL PAST INSTANCES IN WHICH PLANS FOR FOREIGN EMBASSIES WERE SUBMITTED TO ARCHITECTURAL ADMINISTRATION NO QUOTE CARDINAL CHANGES UNQUOTE HAVE BEEN MADE IN ORIGINAL CONCEPTS; IN ALL QUOTE THE IDEA HAS BEEN PRESERVED UNQUOTE.

6. BALOV SAID THAT ANSWER TO EMBASSY REQUESTS CONCERNING EXTENSION OF MAXIMUM HEIGHT ENVELOPES WOULD PROBABLY BE AMONG "RESULTS" RECEIVED BY APRIL 5. HE ADDED THAT QUESTION OF PERMISSION TO BUILD LOW STRUCTURES IN SETBACK AREAS MIGHT NOT BE ANSWERED UNTIL SOVIETS ARE GIVEN MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON WHAT TYPE OF STRUCTURE IS ENVISAGED. BALOV POINTEDLY REMINDED EMBOFF, ON REQUESTS FOR OTHER CHANGES IN HEIGHT ENVELOPES, THAT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUTHORITIES HAD REFUSED SOVIET REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FEW METERS MAXIMUM HEIGHT AT MOUNT ALTO. BALIV ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO SECOND GUESS "THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS," AND THAT HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF APPROVAL ON THESE REQUESTS.

7. EMBASSY THUS SEES FOLLOWING POSSIBLE REACTIONS TO CHANGED SOVIET POSITION:

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(1) ATTEMPT TO SCHEDULE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF CITY ARCHITECTURAL ADMINISTRATION TO ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY SITUATION WITH THEM RATHER THAN THROUGH INTERMEDIARY OF UPDK, WHICH HAS PROVEN ITSELF TO BE UNRELIABLE. BALOV AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING IF THE EMBASSY DECIDED IT TO BE NECESSARY; OR

(2) EMBASSY CAN WAIT UNTIL APRIL 5 TO SEE WHAT RESULTS OF ARCHITECTURAL ADMINISTRATION EXAMINATION OF PLANS ALREADY SUBMITTED WILL BE. EMBOFF REPEATEDLY IMPRESSED UPON BALOV THAT EMBASSY WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN APPROVAL OF BASIC CONCEPT OF USE OF SITE (AS PER REF (D)) BEFORE IT PROCEEDS WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS. BALIV AGREED TO PASS THIS ON TO ARCHITECTURAL ADMINISTRATION.

8. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE IT TO AWAIT
RESULTS PROMISED BY APRIL 5 BEFORE TAKING FURTHER ACTION. AT
THAT POINT SOVIETS WILL EITHER (1) AGREE TO DISCUSS PLANS ALREADY
SUBMITTED WITH ARCHITECT TEAM; OR (2) REQUEST FROM EMBASSY
WHAT EVER FUTHER INFORMATION THEY WILL NEED TO ENABLE THEM TO
MEET WITH TEAM. EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT ANY ACTION IT CA
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